

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JEROME BEARD,

Plaintiff,

-against-

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES
CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Civ. No.: 7:24-CV-06765

STIPULATED
CONFIDENTIALITY
AGREEMENT AND
PROTECTIVE ORDER

This matter having come before the Court by stipulation of Plaintiff Jerome Beard and Defendant International Business Machines Corporation (“IBM” or “Defendant”) for the entry of a protective order limiting the review, copying, dissemination and filing of confidential and/or proprietary documents and information to be produced by either party and their respective counsel or by any non-party in the course of discovery in this matter to the extent set forth below; and the parties, by, between and among their respective counsel, having stipulated and agreed to the terms set forth herein, and good cause having been shown;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. This Stipulation is being entered into to facilitate the production, exchange and discovery of documents and information that merit confidential treatment.

2. As used herein:

(a) “Action” shall mean *Jerome Beard v. International Business Machines Corp.*, Case No. 7:24-cv-06765 filed in Federal District Court in the Southern District of New York.

(b) “Confidential Information” shall mean all Documents and Testimony, and all information contained therein, and other information designated as

confidential, if such Documents or Testimony contain personal confidential information which would invade the privacy rights of any party or IBM's current and/or former employees, trade secrets, proprietary business information, competitively sensitive information, or other information the disclosure of which would, in the good faith judgment of the party designating the material as confidential, be detrimental to the conduct of that party's business or the business of any of that party's customers or clients, or to the individual making the disclosure.

(c) "Disclosure or Discovery Material" shall mean all items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this Action.

(d) "Producing Party" shall mean the parties to this Action and any third-parties producing "Confidential Information" in connection with depositions, document productions, or otherwise, or the party asserting the confidentiality designation, as the case may be.

(e) "Receiving Party" shall mean the party to this Action and/or any non-party receiving "Confidential Information" in connection with depositions, document productions or otherwise.

3. Designation of Confidential Information: Either party may designate Disclosure or Discovery Material that the party reasonably believes should be subject to the terms of this Stipulation as Confidential Information. Designation in conformity with this Stipulation may be made as follows:

(a) For information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions), by affixing, at a minimum, the legend

“CONFIDENTIAL” to each page of each document that contains protected material or by any other reasonable means of giving notice of the party’s intent to claim protected status of the document in question.

(b) For electronic files (such as Word or Excel files) by adding the word “CONFIDENTIAL” to the filename.

(c) For deposition testimony or exhibits offered in a deposition, notifying opposing counsel, on the record, during or at the conclusion of the deposition of the specific testimony or exhibit considered Confidential Information and that the transcript (or portions thereof) or exhibits shall be subject to the provisions of this Stipulation; in addition, designation may be made by notifying all counsel in writing of those portions to be treated as such at any time up to thirty (30) days after the final transcript is received by counsel for the party making the designation.

(d) For information produced in other forms, by affixing in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” or by any other reasonable means of providing notice of the designations.

4. Procedure for Raising Disagreement with Designation as Confidential Information: The Receiving Party may, at any time, notify the Producing Party that the Receiving Party does not concur in the designation of a document or other material as Confidential Information. If the Producing Party does not agree to declassify such document or material, the Receiving Party may move before the Court for an order declassifying those documents or materials. If no such motion is filed, such documents or materials shall continue to be treated in accordance with their designation as Confidential Information. If such motion is filed, the

documents or other materials shall be treated in accordance with their designation as Confidential Information unless and until the Court rules otherwise.

5. Limited Use of Confidential Information: Any information designated as Confidential Information shall be used by the Receiving Party and its counsel only for purposes of this Action and for no other purposes. Except with the prior written consent of the Producing Party or by order of the Court, Confidential Information shall not be furnished, shown, or disclosed to any person or entity except to:

- a. Plaintiff, so long as he agrees to comply with and be bound by the terms of this Stipulation;
- b. officers, directors, agents, and employees (including in-house counsel) of IBM whom IBM believes in good faith to have a need to review such documents or information and who agree to comply with and be bound by the terms of this Stipulation;
- c. counsel of record for the parties in this Action and the legal, clerical, paralegal, or other staff of such counsel;
- d. expert witnesses or consultants retained by the parties or their counsel to furnish technical or expert services in connection with this Action or to give testimony with respect to the subject matter of this Action at the trial of this Action or other proceeding herein, provided, however, that such Confidential Information is furnished, shown, or disclosed in accordance with paragraph 8 hereof;
- e. the author, recipient or custodian of a document or any other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information contained in the document;
- f. the Court and Court personnel, if filed in accordance with paragraph 12 hereof;

g. an officer before whom a deposition is taken, including stenographic reporters and any necessary secretarial, clerical or other personnel of such officer, if furnished, shown or disclosed in accordance with paragraph 10 hereof;

h. trial and deposition witnesses, if furnished, shown or disclosed in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10, respectively, hereof;

i. any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions; and

j. any other person agreed to in writing by the parties.

6. Confidential Information May Not Be Used In Any Other Proceeding: The parties and their counsel shall not use any Confidential Information in any other proceedings, arbitrations, litigations, or other actions. The parties and their counsel shall not furnish, show, or disclose any Confidential Information to any charging parties, claimants, plaintiffs, witnesses, experts, or other persons or parties in any other agency proceedings, arbitrations, litigations, or other actions.

7. Disclosure to Expert Witnesses of Confidential Information: Before any disclosure of Confidential Information is made to an expert witness or consultant pursuant to paragraphs 5 or 6 of this Stipulation, counsel for the Receiving Party shall obtain the expert's written agreement, in the form of Exhibit A attached hereto, to comply with and be bound by its terms.

8. Disclosure at Trial of Confidential Information: Should the need arise for any of the parties to disclose Confidential Information during any hearing or trial before the Court, including through argument or the presentation of evidence, such party shall do so pursuant to any

Court established directions or procedures, or in the absence of such established directions or procedures, take steps necessary to preserve the confidentiality of such Confidential Information.

9. Use at Deposition of Confidential Information: This Stipulation shall not preclude counsel for the parties from using during any deposition in this Action any documents or information which have been designated as Confidential Information under the terms hereof.

10. Designation of Information Produced by Non-Party: A party may designate as Confidential Information subject to this Stipulation any document, information, or deposition testimony produced or given by any non-party to this Action, or any portion thereof. In the case of documents, designation shall be made by notifying all counsel in writing of those documents to be stamped and treated as such at any time up to thirty (30) days after actual receipt of copies of those documents by counsel for the party asserting confidentiality. In the case of deposition testimony, designation shall be made by notifying all counsel in writing of those portions to be stamped or otherwise treated as such at any time up to thirty (30) days after the final transcript is received by counsel for the party asserting confidentiality.

11. Procedures for Filing Information Designated as Confidential with the Court: Any party who seeks to file with the Court any deposition transcripts, exhibits, answers to interrogatories, and other documents that have previously been designated as comprising or containing Confidential Information, and any pleading, brief or memorandum which reproduces or discloses Confidential Information, shall do so pursuant to any Court established directions or procedures, or in the absence of such established directions or procedures, take steps necessary to ensure that the Confidential Information is filed under seal and is maintained by the Court under seal until further order of the Court. The filing with the Court by a Producing Party of any deposition transcripts, exhibits, answers to interrogatories, and other documents which have

previously been designated as comprising or containing Confidential Information, or any pleading, brief or memorandum which reproduces or discloses Confidential Information shall waive for all purposes of all the protections afforded such information by this Agreement.

12. Inadvertent Failure to Designate Information: An inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Producing Party's right to make a confidentiality designation under this Stipulation for such material. Any document or information that may contain Confidential Information that has been inadvertently produced without identification as to its confidential nature may be so designated by the party asserting confidentiality by written notice to the undersigned counsel for the Receiving Party identifying the document or information as "Confidential Information" within a reasonable time following the discovery that the document or information has been produced without such designation.

13. Extracts and Summaries of Confidential Information: Extracts and summaries of Confidential Information that contain Confidential Information shall also be treated as confidential in accordance with the provisions of this Stipulation.

14. No Waiver of Right to Object to Production or Disclosure of Information: The production or disclosure of Confidential Information shall in no way constitute a waiver of each party's right to object to the production or disclosure of other information in this Action or in any other action.

15. No Prejudice to Seek Modification of Stipulation: This Stipulation is entered into without prejudice to the right of either party to seek relief from, or modification of, this Stipulation or any provisions thereof by properly noticed motion to the Court or to challenge any designation of confidentiality as inappropriate under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or other applicable law.

16. Stipulation Is Binding After Conclusion of Action: This Stipulation shall continue to be binding after the conclusion of this litigation except: (a) that there shall be no restriction on documents that are used as exhibits in Court (unless such exhibits were filed under seal in accordance with paragraph 12 hereof); and (b) that a party may seek the written permission of the Producing Party or further order of the Court by motion with respect to dissolution or modification of any provision of this Stipulation. The provisions of this Stipulation shall, absent prior written consent of both parties, continue to be binding after the conclusion of this Action.

17. No Waiver of Privilege: Nothing herein shall be deemed to waive any privilege recognized by law, or shall be deemed an admission as to the admissibility in evidence of any facts or documents revealed in the course of disclosure or a concession as to the nature of the confidentiality of the documents.

18. No Waiver of Privilege or Protection / Inadvertent Production of Privileged and Protected Information: Nothing herein shall require disclosure of information which is protected from discovery by the attorney-client privilege, work product immunity, as an attorney-client communication, or other privilege or immunity. In accordance with Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d), the production of privileged or work-product protected documents or electronically stored information, whether inadvertent or otherwise, is not a waiver of the privilege or protection from discovery in this Action or in any other proceeding. This shall be interpreted to provide the maximum protection allowed by FED. R. EVID. 502(d). If a Producing Party becomes aware that it has inadvertently produced information or materials that are protected by the attorney-client privilege, work product immunity, or other privilege or immunity, the Producing Party should promptly notify each Receiving Party in writing of the inadvertent production. Once a Receiving Party receives notice in writing of the inadvertent production, it

shall make reasonable efforts to gather copies of the information and materials that were distributed to others and shall return all copies of such inadvertently produced material within three (3) business days of receiving such notice unless the Receiving Party disputes that the material should be subject to a privilege warranting its return. Nothing herein shall prevent the Receiving Party from challenging the propriety of the attorney-client privilege or work product immunity or other applicable privilege designation by submitting a challenge to the Court. The Producing Party bears the burden of establishing the privileged or otherwise protected nature of any inadvertently produced information or materials. Each Receiving Party shall refrain from distributing or otherwise using the inadvertently disclosed information or materials for any purpose until the discoverability of the materials is agreed by the parties or resolved by the Court. If the materials are to be returned, either voluntarily or by Court order, any notes or summaries referring or relating to any such inadvertently produced material subject to claim of privilege or immunity shall be destroyed forthwith. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Receiving Party may use the inadvertently produced information or materials solely to respond to a motion by the Producing Party seeking return or destruction of such information or materials. If a Receiving Party becomes aware that it is in receipt of information or materials which it knows or reasonably should know are privileged, counsel for the Receiving Party shall immediately take reasonable steps to (i) stop reading such information or materials, (ii) notify counsel for the Producing Party of such information or materials, (iii) collect all copies of such information or materials, (iv) return such information or materials to the Producing Party, and (v) otherwise comport themselves with Rule 4.4(b) of the New York Rules of Professional Conduct.

19. Destruction or Return of Confidential Information: Upon written notice by the Producing Party following the final termination of this Action by settlement or exhaustion of

all appeals, all Confidential Information produced or designated and all reproductions thereof shall be returned to the Producing Party or shall be destroyed. In the event that the Producing Party requests the destruction of physical objects and documents, the Receiving Party shall certify in writing within sixty (60) days of such written notice following the final termination of this Action that it has destroyed such physical objects and documents, including but not limited to deleting all electronic copies of such documents that have not been archived, backed-up, or are otherwise difficult to access, and that such physical objects and documents have been destroyed to the best of its knowledge, including but not limited to by deleting all electronic copies of such documents that have not been archived, backed-up, or are otherwise difficult to access. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, external counsel of record for the parties may retain one copy of documents constituting work product, a copy of pleadings, motion papers, discovery responses, deposition transcripts, and deposition and hearing exhibits. Nothing in this Stipulation shall prohibit a party from using its own records and business documents in the normal course of business. This Stipulation shall not be interpreted in a manner that would violate any applicable canons of ethics or codes of professional responsibility.

20. This Stipulation may be changed by further order of this Court and is without prejudice to the rights of a party to move for relief from any of its provisions, or to seek or agree to different or additional protection for any particular material or information.

Submitted by and agreed to for and on behalf of all parties:

By: /s/ Jeremy R. Williams

Roy Shimon, Esq.
Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips
Grossman, PLLC
405 East 50th Street
New York, NY 10022

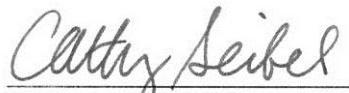
Matthew E. Lee, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)
Jeremy R. Williams, Esq. (*pro hac
vice*)

Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips
Grossman, PLLC
900 W. Morgan Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

Dated: February 6, 2025

SO ORDERED.



CATHY SEIBEL, U.S.D.J.

2/6/25

DATE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify, that on February 6, 2025, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on Plaintiff, by and through his counsel of record, via the Court's CM/ECF system to:

Roy Shimon
Matthew E. Lee
Jeremy R. Williams
Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman, PLLC
405 East 50th Street
New York, NY 10022
rshimon@milberg.com
mlee@milberg.com
jwilliams@milberg.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

/s Justin R. Barnes

Justin R. Barnes

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JEROME BEARD,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No.: 7:24-cv-06765

v.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES
CORPORATION,

**STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR
THE PRODUCTION AND
EXCHANGE OF CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION**

Defendant.

I, _____, state that:

1. My address is _____.
2. My present employer is _____.
3. My present occupation or job description is _____.
4. I have received a copy of the Stipulation and Order for the Production and

Exchange of Confidential Information (the “Stipulation”) entered in the above-entitled action on

_____ (date).

5. I have carefully read and understand the provisions of the Stipulation.
6. I will comply with all of the provisions of the Stipulation.
7. I will hold in confidence, will not disclose to anyone not qualified under the Stipulation, and will use only for purposes of this action, any Confidential Information that is disclosed to me.

8. I will return all Confidential Information that comes into my possession, and documents or things that I have prepared relating thereto, to counsel for the party by whom I am employed or retained, or to counsel from whom I received the Confidential Information.

9. I hereby submit to the jurisdiction of this Court for the purpose of enforcement of the Stipulation in this action.

Dated: _____